

FISH AND GAME COMMISSION MEETING

Public Hearing 7:00 p.m. Wed., Mar. 24, 2004 Fish and Game Headquarters, Boise, ID

Commissioners Hadley, Irby, Watts, Wood, Gibbs, Wheeler, Burns and 50+ members of the public attending.

1. Dave Claycomb, trails coordinator for IDPR, wants a more clear definition of what is and isn't hunting with regard to the ATV rule.
2. Travis Bullock, IOGA, wants wolves to be a furbearer, not a big game animal so trapping can be used, wants 36A to be ATV restricted, wants 85 percent letoff for bows. Wants a boundary change for clarification between 30 and 56A, should be the highway not the ridge.
3. Clinton Scott not in favor of ATV restrictions because of elderly parents, would like to see designated trails left open, does not approve of off-trail travel.
4. Bob Minter, Ada County F&G League. Supports F&G application of restrictions where it will benefit wildlife, but more education and enforcement is needed. Retrieval rule proposal is good. Depredation hunts could offer a "green field" opportunity for youth. Trophy hunt proposal in SW region, support in one unit only, that being 23. Supports having a whitetail and a mule deer tag, allowing hunters to take two deer, one in a general hunt, one in controlled.
5. George Peter, Fairfield outfitter, supports FG management of wolves not Nez Perce.
6. Ron Stolberg opposes the ATV rule, says organized ATV groups could help enforce.
7. Mike Murphy, Idaho Muzzleloaders Assn. wants more restrictions on muzzleloader seasons, prohibiting smokeless powder, sabots, some projectile restrictions, keeping muzzleloaders in traditional mode.
8. William Jones, Idaho ATV Assn. thinks F&G is going beyond what his group and gov't. agencies agreed on two years ago. Thinks the rules are not enforceable. Opposes the closure rule and believes education is the answer.
9. Daryl Allread, Garden Valley outfitter. Supports youth mentored program etc and thinks there should be a youth lion tag. Wolves, second draft between state (Gov) and tribe is an improvement. Does not support sharing wolf harvest with Nez Perce or any other group. Supports 10J.
10. Troy ? Opposes ATV rules, would drive the ATV to the ridge top then walk back and get his gun. Rules are not detailed or clear enough.

11. Dick Niebaur, Marsing, sees ATV problems, people causing damage, we already have rules governing harvest level, should not need an ATV rule for that. Where roads are closed already, we don't need a new rule. Don't penalize the legitimate hunter. Additional rules are probably not needed, if you have them limit use to before sunrise and a couple hours in the middle of the day. Split Unit 39 into two units, the high country and the "low" country.
12. Tom Judge, Idaho State Bowhunters. Supports the new rule much more than they did the rule last year. Would like to see a requirement for uncased and unloaded weapons.
13. Richard Renstrom, Boise, has researched travel rules. Federal agencies only have authority over travel on federal land, believes an unloaded and unassembled gun means you are not hunting and you can ride to a spot and then put your gun together and hunt. Opposes restrictions on unit 39.
14. Dave Smith SW director of Falconer's Assn. to inform commission about their concern about a proposed BSU research project to examine, kill and take the brains of 16-36 baby American kestrels. The Assoc. opposes the study but has not published an official position yet.
15. Grant Simonds, IOGA. Sees several increases in controlled hunt tag numbers and sees two that meet permit levels for outfitter allocation, elk in Unit 11 and deer in 11A. Presents data on historic use.
16. J.R. Phillips on muzzleloader hunt in Unit 45 planned to be moved to 52 and make it a traditional hunt.
17. Steve Snyder, ATV and cycle owner very strongly in favor of ATV restrictions, supports Mike Murphy viewpoint on muzzleloader technology. Supports trophy mule deer hunt but thinks different management is needed. Thinks two-point rule in Unit 40 is taking many bucks out and should be cut back. Is afraid big game herds are for sale to the highest bidder, i.e. buying leftover nonresident tags, super tag lottery, etc.
18. Joseph Peterson outfitter, supports allocation in 11 and 11A. Is happy to see the increase in elk in the Clearwater.
19. Jim Hagedorn, Concerned Sportsmen of Idaho. Supports separate mule deer and whitetail management. Supports continuing a Clearwater whitetail tag. Believes giving landowners a 25 percent share of controlled hunts is excessive. Does not feel FG is doing an adequate job of taking public input. To control excess deer in the Clearwater you have to work with landowners and sportsmen and if Fish and Game can't get the job done, then sportsmen are organizing right now and we will get the job done, if we have to have a new Fish and Game department! Does not believe the reports that elk herds are on the increase in the Clearwater.
20. Larry Meredith, Boise, hunts with an ATV for health reasons. Feels the problem is lack of enforcement between USFS, BLM and F&G. you have to

work with enforcement not just outright ban them, taking the easy way out. Its an enforcement thing. Gotta do something about wolves.

21. Tom Demorest, Diamond D Ranch in Unit 27, supports a three-point minimum on deer in that unit. Supports the 10J Rule.
22. Scott Farr, outfitter, Middle Fork, supports classifying wolf in such a manner to allow trapping and snaring to manage populations. Points to a Minn. Study estimating how much harvest it would take to stabilize populations. Supports classification as furbearer or a special classification that would allow traps and snares.
23. Terry Hendrickson, supports youth seasons but not during general season because it encourages party hunting. Supports longer deer seasons but restricting them by point count as the season progresses. Make it uniform across the state to spread out hunters.
24. Alfred Dufty, BSU professor, supporting the research on kestrels, notes that FG and USFWS have signed off on the research. He has had approval to harvest 16 kestrel nestlings for two years and has not exercised it because he wants the research to show that the harvest is necessary first. Nest boxes put up by his grad students produce 160 young per year. Notes that stealing of his nest boxes has done more to harm the population than his study would. The goal of the study is to determine the effect of handling as in measuring, tagging etc. has on young birds. Kestrels are abundant and would serve as a model for more rare birds.
25. Brian Beckly opposes the ATV rule proposals. Says there will be no hunters in Unit 39 with out ATVs.